



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Dillon Field Office
1005 Selway Drive
Dillon, Montana 59725
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/dfo>



1610.RMP (050)

April 2005

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Proposed RMP/Final EIS) for lands administered by the BLM in the Dillon Field Office. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS is a refinement of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative B) presented in the Draft RMP/EIS released in April 2004. The Draft RMP/EIS was available for a 90-day review period ending on July 12, 2004. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS is designed to be used in conjunction with the Draft RMP/EIS for reference to maps and in regard to page numbers cited in the comment and response section. Both the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and the Draft RMP/EIS are available on the Dillon RMP website at www.mt.blm.gov/dfo/rmp.

Chapter 5 of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS contains an analysis of and BLM responses to the comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS. As a result of public comment and internal review, Alternative B has been modified and is now considered the Proposed Action for management of BLM lands in the Dillon Field Office. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS is subject to a 30-day protest period.

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS contains only land use planning decisions subject to protest *with the exception of decisions on route designations discussed in the Travel Management and OHV Use section of the plan*. Decisions on route designations may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) following the publication of the Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Plan. The ROD will include information on the appeal process.

Any person who participated in the Dillon RMP planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected may protest approval of this Proposed RMP and the land use plan decisions contained within it (see 43 CFR 1610.5-2) during the 30-day review and protest period. The protest period begins when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability of the final environmental impact statement in the *Federal Register*. Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process leading to this Proposed RMP may protest. A protesting party may raise only those issues submitted for the record during the planning process leading up to publication of this Proposed RMP. New issues may not be brought into the record at the protest stage.

To be considered "timely", your protest, along with all attachments, must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. There is no provision for an extension of time. Although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested. **The protest period ends 30 days after EPA's Notice of Availability is published in the *Federal Register*.** Press releases on the actual date ending the protest period will be sent to local and regional media contacts and information will be placed on the Dillon RMP website and sent to all contacts on the Dillon RMP mailing list.

A letter of protest must be filed in accordance with the planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2(a)(1). Protests must be in writing. Electronic mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, BLM will consider the email or faxed protest an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and emails to Brenda.Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov.

If sent by regular mail, send to:

Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Williams
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, D.C. 20035

For overnight mail (i.e., Federal Express), send to:

Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Williams
1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036

In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the Proposed RMP being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc., included in the document.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that you submitted during the planning process, or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record.
5. A concise statement explaining why the Montana/Dakotas BLM State Director's proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. *This is a critical part of your protest.* Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite documents. A protest that merely expresses disagreement with the Montana/Dakotas BLM State Director's proposed decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

At the end of the 30-day protest period and after the Governor's consistency review, the Record of Decision and the Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP/ROD) will be prepared. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the Proposed RMP under protest until final action has been completed on such protest. The RMP/ROD will include the appeal process for decisions that can be appealed to IBLA. For the Dillon RMP, this only includes decisions on route designations for motorized or non-motorized use. Any significant change made as a result of a protest will be made available for public review and comment before it is approved.

Freedom of Information Act Considerations/Confidentiality

Public comments submitted for this planning review, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Dillon Field Office in Dillon, Montana, during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be retained on file in the same office as part of the public record for this planning effort. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public inspection or from disclosure under the "Freedom of Information Act", you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

I thank the individuals and organizations who participated in this planning process. Your interest is appreciated. I hope your involvement will continue as we move forward to implement and monitor the plan and manage the public lands and resources administered by the Dillon Field Office.

Sincerely,



Tim Bozorth
Dillon Field Manager